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24 January 1951

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT: USSR Merchant Marine

1. There is inclosed a copy of the Master Lend-Lease Agreement, dated June 11, 1942, between the USSR and the U.S.A. It is my understanding that the other two documents you wished, namely Merchant Ship Sales Act and Public Law No. 321 - 79th Congress, are available to you in New Orleans and need not be forwarded from here. Mr. Perry of the Maritime Commission, with whom we talked, advised me that in order for his office to release the letter in his file you requested, a formal requirement will have to go forth from this office. We reviewed again the subject matter of that letter, and I have concluded, in view of our subsequent conversations, that the information was not too pertinent to our purpose. However, if you still feel you should have this letter, I will institute a request for it.

2. Mr. Perry also confirmed the title to the subject vessels rests with the Department of State as successor to the Lend-Lease Administration. These vessels are operated either by the USSR Ministry of Merchant Marine or Chief Administrations which is a subdivision of this Ministry. There is apparently no intermediary agency or corporation. Without doubt, the Russians regard the vessels as public vessels and maintain for them the privilege of sovereign immunity. For the sake of administration, the Soviet Merchant Marine is divided on a functional and geographic basis. It is probable that the term Sov-flot applies to one of these divisions, but it is not a legal entity. Among the principal ports of call, outside the Soviet Bloc, of these vessels are Aden, Karachi, Said, Istanbul, Hong Kong, Singapore, Colombo, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Marseilles, Alexandria, Tripoli, Tunis and Casablanca.

3. We look

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3. We look forward to having the paper you are drafting as soon as it is convenient and are most appreciative of your help and cooperation.

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Inlosures (1)
Master Lend-Lease Agreement

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MISSING PAGE

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

ENCLOSURE

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM:

IPT Econ.

NO.

40410

DATE

JAN 25 1951

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D		
1. Mr. Houston General Counsel	Admin. Bldg.				
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FORM NO. 51-10
FEB 1950

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